

Mr. President, in addition to that, I have a new A bill. (Read LB 1019A by title for the first time. See page 898 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: We will move on to LB 960, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 960 was introduced by Senator Withem. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 4 of this year, referred to the Education Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Members of the body, LB 960 is a bill that the Legislature dealt with last year. It was one of the many pieces of legislation that was passed in the final days. There was kind of a massacre over in the Governor's office and where legislation was that was passed that had A bills that was not included within the budget, was, in fact, was, in fact, vetoed. This bill was one of those. It's been reintroduced. It deals with the question of school improvement passed in the form of LB 336 last year. It had widespread support from the schools, from a lot of parent groups, even some businesses who privately had not said a whole lot in support of legislation, of education legislation, were supportive of this legislation. Some folks from Columbus who run businesses up there came down and supported it. We have a letter here from Jack McCallister, the Chairman of the Board, and Chief Executive Officer of US West located in Denver, Colorado. The thrust behind school restructuring, first of all, whenever you see the word "re"...the prefix "re" in front of any school type of legislation you have the assumption that it deals with reorganization. It has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with reorganization of schools. It has to do with improving schools. And the thrust of improving schools that's promoted here in restructuring is not a top-down, State Department of Education, and the Legislature passed a whole bunch of mandates that the local schools are forced to comply with. What the restructuring movement does is it gets...sets the policy of the state to urge schools to bring about improvement in the way in which they educate kids and ask them all to reevaluate their abilities to educate kids, and it funds a minimum of four model programs in our state. Actually, it's more than four, excuse me, it funds at a \$40,000 level those school districts that put together